

Session/Poster#

Presenter

A14

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Patterns of Engagement with Primary Care Services in Patients with ESKD

Patients with end-stage renal disease face many social, economic and physical challenges. Many patients require a multidisciplinary approach for care. Given their increased risk for cardiovascular diseases and other complications, this project aims to study patients' utilization patterns of PCP services and the challenges associated with obtaining care in an urban setting. It is not known how patients in underserved communities view the relationship between their nephrology team and their PCP and where impediments to care exist. A random convenience sample of inner-city dialysis (28), kidney transplant (39) and CKD (8) patients were interviewed face to face regarding understanding of nephrology vs PCP services, and usage of each. In our population, the majority of patients believe that a PCP is important and 21% have a long-term relationship. Almost half see their PCP at a different location from their nephrologist and most did not know whether their PCP and nephrologist worked together. Challenges in accessing care from their PCP included scheduling conflicts and transportation cost. Based on this study, patients with kidney disease should be encouraged to maintain a relationship with their PCP and communication between the nephrology team and the PCP should be emphasized in order to optimize and coordinate care.